

What is claimed is:

1. A method for supplying a hydraulically-operated device with a working medium where the working medium pressure is adjusted as a function of a control variable through pressure control or pressure reduction, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing a working medium pressure range into a nominal pressure range and a maximum pressure range, wherein the maximum pressure range is between the nominal pressure range and a system pressure upper limit value;

varying the control variable within the nominal pressure range to achieve a fine adjustment of the working medium pressure; and

varying the control variable within the maximum pressure range to achieve a coarse adjustment of the working medium pressure, wherein for a given variation in the control variable the working pressure changes more in the maximum pressure range than in the nominal pressure range.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a medium pressure serves as the control variable with which a valve is controlled for pressure control or pressure reduction.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein an electric current or potential serves as the control variable with which a valve is controlled for pressure control or pressure reduction.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the control variable is modulated by a control means to which a pilot variable is applied.

5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein a pilot pressure serves as the pilot variable.

6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the control means modulates the control variable from the pilot variable.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the hydraulic device actuates a stepless gear change means in an automatic transmission.

8. A control system for supplying a hydraulically-operated device with a working medium, said control system comprising: a pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve, which can be controlled via a control means by a control variable in order to adjust a working medium pressure on the hydraulically-operated device within a nominal pressure range and a maximum pressure range, wherein the maximum pressure range is between a system pressure value and the nominal pressure range, including an actuation means for the pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve that actuates a valve body member beyond a specified value of the control variable in such a way that with equal changes of the control variable the working medium pressure in the maximum pressure range changes more than in the nominal pressure range.

9. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve includes a valve body member that is supplied by a control medium serving as a control variable.

10. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve includes a valve body member that can be controlled via an electric device.

11. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the control means is a proportional valve that modulates the control variable from the pilot variable.

12. A control system in accordance with one of the previous claims 8 through 11, wherein the pilot variable is a pilot pressure and that the control means is a proportional valve that can be controlled electrically.

13. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the proportional valve modulates the control medium pressure for the pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve from the pilot pressure as a function of its selection.

14. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the valve body member of the pressure control valve or pressure reduction valve includes a pressure feedback surface onto which the working medium pressure is applied.

15. A control system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the actuating device has the design of an on-off valve and is arranged downstream from the pressure feedback surface, and the actuating device is actuated by the control means, and beyond a defined value of the control variable the pressure feedback to the pressure feedback surface is at least restricted, preferably interrupted or relieved from pressure.

16. A control system in accordance with claim 15, wherein the on-off valve can be controlled via the control medium pressure.

17. A control system in accordance with claim 15, wherein the on-off valve can be actuated electrically via the at least one control means.